

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 H-02 SSO-00 /009 W

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R 311519Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3881

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 3754

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (ANTLES AND HAMMATT)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY RE W/W ANTLES AND HAMMATT

REF: STATE 070934

1. A COUSIN OF WILLIAM HAMMATT, DR. LELAND COLE, WAS IN ADDIS ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO AND WE UNDERSTAND HE WAS ABLE TO FLY OVER BLUE NILE AREA WHERE IT IS PRESUMED MEN DISAPPEARED. COLE CONTACTED EMBASSY ONCE BUT HAS SINCE LEFT ADDIS AND DID NOT INFORM US OF THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP.
 2. FAMILY OF HAMMATT HAS HIRED LOCAL ATTORNEY, ROBERT SCOTT, AN AMERICAN, WHOSE ASSISTANT IS WORKING WITH A PRIVATE GROUP WHICH WAS SENT INTO THE AREA TO INVESTIGATE. SCOTT IS OUT OF TOWN FOR 6 WEEKS BUT CONSUL TALKED WITH HIS ASSISTANT TODAY. LATTER EXPECTS REPORT FROM GROUP WITHIN DAY OR TWO AND WILL LET US KNOW DEVELOPMENTS.
 3. CONSUL HAS BEEN UNABLE TO REACH MAJOR WITH CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION WHO WAS WORKING ON CASE. WILL KEEP TRYING.
 4. AS STATED EARLIER, DISTANCE ALONG RIVER WHERE MEN PROBABLY DISAPPEARED IS APPROXIMATELY 100 MILES LONG. INCLUDING SURROUNDING AREA THIS COULD AMOUNT TO NEAR 1,000 SQUARE MILES WHICH EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SEARCH DUE TO INACCESSIBILITY. ALSO RAINY SEASON STARTING AND DUE TO LACK OF COMPLETELY PAVED ROADS OR TARMAC AIR STRIPS, AREA WILL BECOME CUT OFF FROM ADDIS WHICH IS 200 AIR MILES OR 300
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OVERLAND MILES AWAY. BELIEVE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BEING

DONE TO LOCATE MEN CONSIDERING PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS AND
LACK OF SOPHISTICATED SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS HERE.
HUMMEL

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